AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (currently amended) A method of visualization of a three-dimensional image representative of a three-dimensional imaged object, the method comprising:

displaying the three-dimensional image in a display window;

selecting a point on an element of interest present in a part of the three-dimensional image, and subsequent thereto, moving the three-dimensional image within the display window in response to the selected point on the element of interest;

creating in the part of the three-dimensional image a finite volume whose dimensions are predetermined and whose center is the point on the element of interest present in the part of the three-dimensional image, an outside dimension of the finite volume being less than a width of the display window;

making an interactive intersection between the predetermined finite volume and the part of the three-dimensional image to isolate the element of interest in the three-dimensional image; and

visualizing displaying in the display window only the part of the three-dimensional image contained in the predetermined finite volume.

2.   (canceled).

3.   (previously presented) The method of visualization according to claim 1 wherein the predetermined finite volume can be displaced in the three-dimensional image

according to a translational motion, while displaying only the part of the three-dimensional image contained at each instant in the predetermined finite volume.

4.   (canceled).

5.   (previously presented) The method of visualization according to claim 1 wherein displaying the part of the three-dimensional image contained in the predetermined finite volume as well as any other part of the three-dimensional image not contained in a cylinder, with the predetermined finite volume, of section identical to the section of the predetermined finite volume and of infinite length, and in that any part of the three-dimensional image not contained in the cylinder is displayed in degraded mode.

6.   (canceled).

7.   (previously presented) The method of visualization according to claim 1 wherein once a part of the three-dimensional image is visualized in the predetermined finite volume, the dimensions of that predetermined finite volume can be modified by an operator.

8.   (canceled).

9.   (previously presented) The method of visualization according to claim 1 wherein the predetermined finite volume is a sphere whose diameter is equal to half the width of a display window of the three-dimensional image.

10.   (canceled).

11.   (previously presented) The method of visualization according to claim 1 wherein once the point is selected on the element of interest, a translation of the three-dimensional image is made, so as to place the point in the center of a display window of the three-dimensional image.

12.   (previously presented) The method of visualization according to claim 1 wherein the point is selected by means of a cursor.

13.   (new) The method of visualization according to claim 1, wherein:

the displaying results in the displaying of white space within the display window and outside of the predetermined finite volume.

14.   (new) The method of visualization according to claim 1, wherein:

the making an interactive intersection to isolate the element of interest comprises removing from the image to be displayed those elements outside of the predetermined finite volume.

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